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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	ALLEN	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	10/814,048	Group Art Unit:	1632
Filed:	March 31, 2004	Docket:	7500.416US01
Confirmation No.:	5733	Notice of Allow. Date:	n/a
Due Date:	n/a		
Title:	IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO ITEMS AND THEIR TREATMENT		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 17, 2004.

By: Peggy Kerkhove
Name: Peggy Kerkhove

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

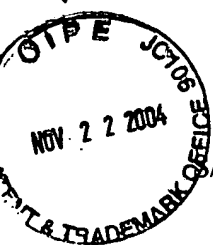
We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, Copy of UK Search Report
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: John J. Gresens
Name: John J. Gresens
Reg. No.: 33,112
JJG/pjk



N 10/814,048

PATENT

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By:

Name: Peggy Kerkhove

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the UK Search Report. At least some of the references were recently cited in a UK Search Report mailed September 22, 2003.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

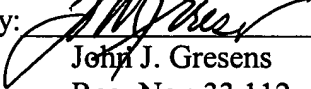
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,


MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612)332.5300

Dated: November 17, 2004

By: 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No.: 33,112

JJG/pjk



 <p>FORM 1449*</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</p> <p>IN AN APPLICATION</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p>	<p>Docket Number:</p> <p>7500.416US01</p>	<p>Application Number:</p> <p>10/814,048</p>
	<p>Applicant: ALLEN</p>	
	<p>Filing Date: March 31, 2004</p>	<p>Group Art Unit: 1632</p>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	4,291,122	September, 1981	Orelski				
	4,436,819	March, 1984	Manning				
	4,717,661	January, 1988	McCormick, et al.				
	5,770,393	June, 1998	Dalmasso, et al.				
	5,955,296	September, 1999	Roll				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	